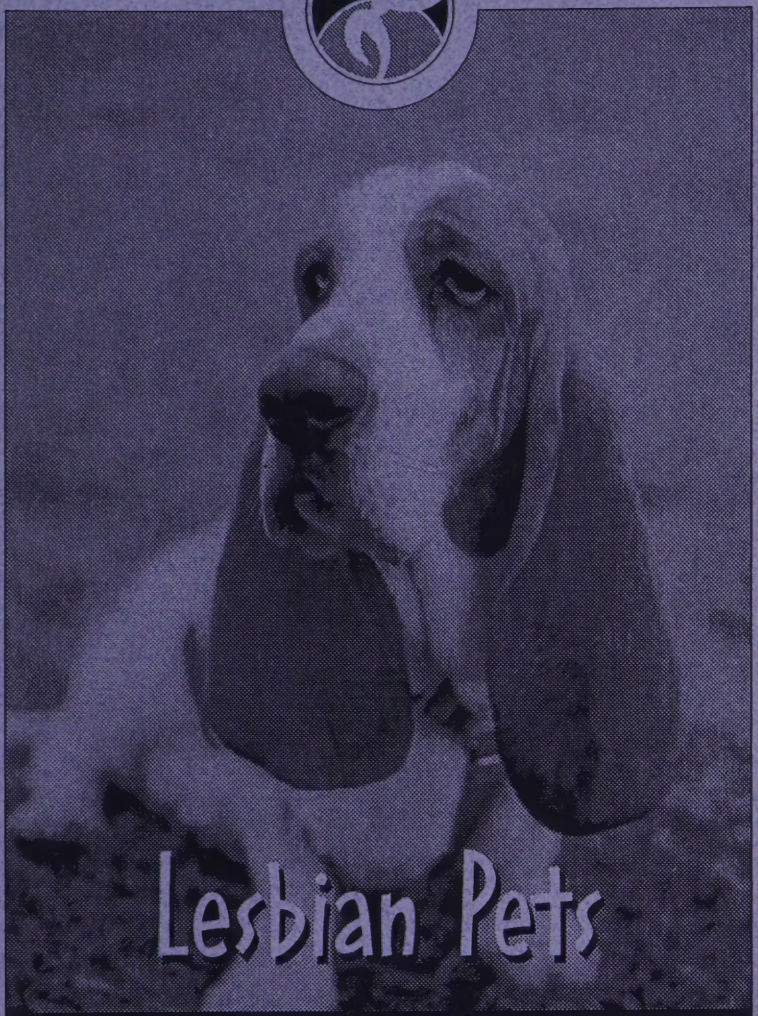
womonspace



Lesbian Pets

Coming Out • What's Happening? • Community Calendar

Our voice in the lesbian community

Aug/Sept 1999

w o m o n s p a c e

Cover photo: *Otto*, by Roxane Chicoine

We Welcome Submissions We are always seeking submissions of interest to local lesbians. Letters to the editor, book, concert and movie reviews, political and social commentary, short fiction, poetry, photographs and artwork are all welcomed. Write to *womonspace* (Box 128, Main P.O., Edmonton, AB T5J 3K4), attend a newsletter meeting, leave a message at 482-1794, or e-mail lindyp@freenet.edmonton.ab.ca. Topic for October is Big Lesbians.

---

womonspace is a publication of Womonspace Social and Recreational Society of Edmonton. We are a nonprofit organization. The newsletter is produced by, for, and about lesbians in Edmonton and the surrounding areas. Our purpose is to inform and entertain our members and any other interested lesbians. The opinions expressed in any issue of *womonspace* do not necessarily reflect the opinion of the Directors or the Newsletter Committee. The events, organizations and establishments publicized are not necessarily supported by Womonspace. *womonspace* is produced on a volunteer basis by the Newsletter Committee. We welcome submissions. Material submitted becomes the property of Womonspace. We reserve the right to edit for length and content, and to refuse publication. Articles or letters to the editor may be sent to: Womonspace, Box 128, Main P.O., Edmonton, AB T5J 3K4. Womonspace members may submit classified advertising – up to 3 lines free – at any time. *womonspace* seeks advertising that is lesbian-positive to help defer publication costs. Womonspace does not necessarily endorse products or services offered. We reserve the right to refuse ads. For rate information, and to place an ad, please leave a message on the Lesbian Info Line at 482-1794.

This Month

4 **Splinters from the board**
By Lindy Pratch

5 **Cat women**
By Lisa Austin

6 **Lesbian pet peeves**
By Suzanne Dawson

6 **I'd get rid of him but . . .**
By Jean Dobbie

7 **100 best lesbian and gay novels**
By Lindy Pratch

8 **Support for coming out**
By Lynn Macdonald

9 **Yours, mine, ours and us**
By Liz Massiah

10 **Calendar of events**
Events for August/September, 1999

12 **What's happening?**
Groups and Weekly Events

14 **just this whisper**
By Charity Laboucan

15 **A last look at Pride**

16 **Sing it out!**
By Marie Byggin

Splinters from the Board

By Lindy Pratch

- A Womonspace campout for women and children will take place on the weekend of August 20 to 22. Womonspace members will have the opportunity to camp free of charge at a site near Edmonton. Adults who are not members will be charged a small fee. Anyone interested in attending is asked to leave a message on the Womonspace line, 482-1794.
- A homemade wine and beer festival will take place during the hour prior to the Womonspace dance on September 18. Tasting and tale swapping from 8 - 9 p.m. All women are welcome to celebrate the alchemy of grapes and barley!
- Womonspace and L'Amazons touch football team will join forces behind the bar at The Curtain Rises on September 11 at the Citadel Theatre. This is a fundraising event for the Gay and Lesbian Community Centre of Edmonton.
- A strong emphasis is being placed on team challenges this year at the AIDS/HIV Walk on September 26. Anyone interested in joining the Womonspace team is invited to call 482-1794.
- Womonspace held a well-attended video night during Pride Week in June, viewing two NFB documentaries about lesbians. We are considering hosting a similar event during the winter. This year, Womonspace was not involved with the Pride dance. Our president, Terri Hayes, was very much a part of the Pride celebration, however. She was one of the two co-chairs who worked so hard to make the event a huge success.
- Our newsletter is receiving excellent support from advertisers and therefore it is no longer necessary to rely on revenue from the dances to subsidize the free copies that we distribute around town. The demand for free copies often exceeds availability, so we may print more than 350 copies per month in the future. Being a member or a Friend of Womonspace will of course guarantee that you will get a copy in the mail each month!
- June is the end of our fiscal year. Our books will be audited over the summer in preparation for our Annual General Meeting, which will take place on October 16.

A group of Vancouver dykes meet regularly to walk their dogs together. If anyone is interested in starting something similar here, we would be happy to run a notice for you in *womonspace*. Call 482-1794.

Cat women

by Lisa Austin

Okay, what's the thing with lesbians and cats? I have two myself. Cats, that is. And a statistically significant number of lesbians seem to have cats as well. In fact, the lesbian and her cat has become cliché because it's so commonplace. I'm beginning to believe that a cat is standard issue when one comes out, along with comfortable sandals and a sudden urge to cook a casserole and take it to a lesbian gathering to discuss post-modernism and yeast allergies. Rita Mae Brown, author of the classic *Rubyfruit Jungle*, created a series of mystery novels in which a cat is the protagonist. It's true, cats seem to be able to find certain things with eerie accuracy: clean laundry (to lie in), a new sweater (to lie on), a guest who doesn't like cats (upon whom the cat wishes to lie). But why are cats such an integral part of lesbian life?

One reason our relationships with cats are so deep may be connected to our shared role of social pariah. People tend to have strong feelings about cats one way or another. They either love them or despise/fear them. Perhaps this is why we understand cats so well – society is similarly opinionated about homosexuality. Homosexuals, for instance, are accused by the right wing as being "anti-family." Cats were once thought by the spiritually paranoid to be a threat to babies. They believed that cats deliberately suffocated babies by curling up over their faces in the crib. How anti-family is that?

Cats and homosexuals remain misunderstood and demonized by a society that demands compliance to its "moral and religious code." Lesbians are portrayed by the Dark Side as sexually ravenous, masculinized predators (okay, I will personally concede the ravenous bit). Cats are similarly viewed as amoral and sexually capricious. In fact, some of our language around promiscuity reflects our attitudes about cat morality: catting about, tomcatting, cathouse.

As I write this, my cat Ninny walks back and forth in front of the computer screen, purring and bumping her nose against anything with a corner. Ninny always does this when I'm writing or reading. I think she fears my attention has strayed too far from her and she has to bring it back to its rightful focus. It makes me realize that the reason lesbians and cats are kindred spirits is irrelevant. And with the exception of their enviable ability to lick their own genitals, we have a lot in common. We both appreciate food, a good sleep, a bright beam of sunlight and curling up next to a woman who loves us.

Top Ten List of Lesbian Pet Peeves

by Suzanne Dawson

10. You invite your new girlfriend over to your house and your dog gets more petting than you do.
9. Your cat-crazed girlfriend tries to find a way around the house rule "only one cat per girl" by adding another girl.
8. Your partner starts to look less and less like you and more and more like your dog.
7. You enjoy leaving the house in minus 30 degrees weather because it allows you to escape the smell of the litter box.
6. Your girlfriend tells you that the cat hair floating in your soup adds texture and protein.
5. You feel lucky to have gotten the dog in the break up, even though your ex got the house, the car, the boat and the chequing account.
4. You choose your clothes based on what hides cat hair the best.
3. You reach across for your partner in bed, and all you feel are miles of fur, paws and claws.
2. Your veterinary bills are more than your rent.
1. In response to your grumbling about never getting any pussy, your partner makes a stop at the SPCA.

I'd get rid of him but ...

by Jean Dobbie

Breath that would stop a vampire,
Gold hair everywhere,
85-pound lap dog wannabe,
Steals food at every opportunity,
Eats socks, underwear and
plastic toys . . .

But, I love to read my newspaper
at 6 a.m.

My 22-month-old daughter
Bounces up and down on his back
Watching *Bambi*
And my six-month-old daughter pulls
His hair out by the handful.
They learn the words for
Eyes, ears and teeth
By poking him repeatedly
And exploring him
As he lies there patiently

. . . while I read.

The Lesbian Avengers are recruiting in Edmonton. The Lesbian Avengers is a nonviolent direct action group of lesbians, bisexual women, and transgendered people focused on issues vital to lesbian survival and visibility. Our purpose is to identify and promote lesbian issues and perspectives while empowering queer women to become experienced organizers who can participate in political rebellion. I am starting an Edmonton chapter and would like all radical dykes/queer women interested to sign on! For info, phone 488-3234 (GLCCE) or 425-7731 (home) E-mail: edm_avengers@hotmail.com

The 100 best lesbian and gay novels

by Lindy Pratch

The Publishing Triangle is an association of lesbians and gay men in publishing in the United States. This year, they released a list of 100 best lesbian and gay novels, selected by a panel of 14 judges. Writers Dorothy Allison, Lillian Faderman, M.E. Kerr, Jenifer Levin and Sarah Schulman were among the judges. The entire list can be seen on the internet at www.publishingtriangle.org/top100.html. The Publishing Triangle encourages discussion on what makes literature gay or lesbian and what makes a book "best." Visitors to the website have sent some heated responses to the choices in the list and many of these comments have been posted. Objections to the inclusion of *To Kill a Mockingbird* ("a great novel, but gay? – hardly") and *Little Women* ("huh? because it has a tomboy in it?"), for example. Many people commented on the absence of Patricia Nell Warren's *The Front Runner* from the list. A second list of best books, based on visitor votes, is also posted. *The Front Runner* is number one on it. These are the top titles on the original list:

1. *Death in Venice*, Thomas Mann
2. *Giovanni's Room*, James Baldwin
3. *Our Lady of the Flowers*, Jean Genet
4. *Remembrance of Things Past*, Marcel Proust
5. *The Immoralist*, Andre Gide
6. *Orlando*, Virginia Woolf
7. *The Well of Loneliness*, Radclyffe Hall
8. *The Kiss of the Spider Woman*, Manuel Puig
9. *The Memoirs of Hadrian*, Marguerite Yourcenar
10. *Zami*, Audre Lorde
11. *The Picture of Dorian Gray*, Oscar Wilde
12. *Nightwood*, Djuna Barnes
13. *Billy Budd*, Herman Melville
14. *A Boy's Own Story*, Edmund White
15. *Dancer From the Dance*, Andrew Holleran
16. *Maurice*, E.M. Forster
17. *The City and the Pillar*, Gore Vidal
18. *Rubyfruit Jungle*, Rita Mae Brown
19. *Brideshead Revisited*, Evelyn Waugh
20. *Confessions of a Mask*, Yukio Mishima
21. *The Member of the Wedding*, Carson McCullers
22. *City of Night*, John Rechy
23. *Myra Breckinridge*, Gore Vidal
24. *Patience and Sarah*, Isabel Miller
25. *The Autobiography of Alice B. Toklas*, Gertrude Stein

Most of these titles can be borrowed from Edmonton Public Library. Otherwise, you can request them through the interlibrary loan service.

Support for coming out

by Lynn MacDonald

Last winter, I joined an eight-week program at the Gay and Lesbian Community Centre of Edmonton called Coming Out for Lesbian and Bisexual Women. The group was co-facilitated by two lesbians, Janet and Cheryl, and together they helped us to deal with our coming out. We covered homophobia (both the outside world's and our own), the stages of the coming out process, stereotypes, sexuality, dating, relationships, legal issues, resources, and finally, pride in being gay.

There was lots of laughter, tears, and a sharing of personal experiences. It was a completely confidential, safe support group in which to deal with our fears and anxieties about coming out: to ourselves, to our friends and families, and to our co-workers.

There was absolutely no judgment for where anyone was at, in respect to the coming out process, and we were all at different stages. Some of us wondered if we actually even were gay, some were confident about their orientation but struggled with how to deal with questions from family and friends. Some of us had experienced discrimination and hurtful comments.

Attending this group totally changed my life. Since we finished the program, I have been to dances, gay bars and coffee houses, have made some new friends and it's been a most freeing experience.

Being able to explore my feelings and fears in such a safe environment made it possible for me to venture out into "the real world" and be who I really am. I cannot recommend this group highly enough to others who are still in the closet, wondering about their sexuality, or just needing some support.

Coming out in my 40s has not always been easy, but the support of the group and the wonderful women I met gave me the courage to do it. The group consisted of different ages and backgrounds. There were some couples and some single people. Some had been married to men, others had never been with men. No matter what our age or circumstances, we were all able to relate to each other.

Thanks Janet and Cheryl for your fine work, your humour, your sharing and your pride in us. And to the wonderful women I met in the group (you all know who you are) I hope things are going really well for you all, and I'll see you at the Womonspace dances . . .

For anyone out there who is looking for "others like me," be sure to attend this group in the fall. I can guarantee you will feel so good about yourself by the time you're done, you'll want to shout from the rooftops, "I'm gay and it's okay!"

This was the first year I actually walked, with my head up, in the Pride Parade.

Yours, mine, ours and us

By Liz Massiah

A group for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender parents and partners met for the first time during Pride Week, 1999. The event was sponsored by Massiah Counselling Services in the hope of starting a group which has often been identified as a community need. Imagine a space for l/g/b/t folks to talk about being parents with others who live a similar experience – and who know how ordinary and challenging that can be.

The twelve parents who attended were so very pleased and the enthusiasm was infectious. For some, it was the first time they had met other l/g/b/t parents – or "wicked" step-parents, as one described herself. By the end of the evening, phone numbers were exchanged and thoughts for the future included bringing kids to talk to other kids with l/g/b/t parents, time alone for the adults, and fun events like picnics. When the group was asked about a next meeting, the answer was quick – YES, in two weeks!

Starting August 3, the group will meet every second Tuesday, from 7-9 p.m., upstairs at Orlando Books on Whyte Ave. $26.70 for the room rental will be collected by passing the hat. Our name, "Yours, Mine, Ours and Us, a parenting group for l/g/b/t parents, step parents and partners," provides a organizational framework for the discussions. The structure will alternate; one meeting will be peer support (general discussion with group members facilitating), and every second meeting will have a set topic. A speaker may be brought in, depending on the topic. Day-long workshops are a possibility. Liz will not attend every meeting but will be there for the more structured ones, which will constitiute a course on parenting. At this writing, the course is not connected to any other l/g/b/t courses on parenting offered elsewhere.

Meetings will start with "success stories" as each participant takes three minutes to report on a parenting success since the last group. Following this will be the topic for the structured meetings, or more general discussion for the alternate ones. Topics for the next several months include: coming out, what is parenting?, discipline, nutrition, legal issues, communication, dealing with oppression, and discrimination. Other suggested topics include: dealing with in/outlaws, secrets, routines, allowance, handling money, maintaining couple intimacy, and blended families.

The energy is strong and positive. Babysitting sharing is already starting to happen, and social events will grow as the group evolves. Tell your friends and join us. Call Massiah Counselling Services at 415- 5434 for more info, or just drop in to any of our meetings.

Calendar of Events

Sunday, August 8 – 2 p.m.
Liatris Society Excursion to Sylvan Lake
Tour a professional flower farm, weather permitting. RSVP with William, 474-7328.

Monday, August 9 – 8 p.m.
Returning: Slides and Music with Jennifer Berezan
Admission $8. Call Orlando Books, 432-7633

Thursday, August 12 – 8 p.m.
Marty Chan's "The Bone House"
Fringe preview performance at Strathcona Community League, 10139 – 87 Ave. Fundraiser for Laurie Blakeman, MLA. Tickets $15. Call Julie; 497-7755.

August 12-22
Edmonton Fringe Festival
Always plenty of queer content; pick up a program at any Starbucks location and look for Gaywire's Guide to the Fringe at Orlando Books. www.fringe.alberta.com

Thursday, August 19, 7:30 p.m.
GLAF Drop-In Softball
Gays, Lesbians and Friends softball leage invite you to play with them at Belgravia Field, 11605 74 Ave. Call Tina, 423-9925.

August 20-22
Womonspace Campout
All women and children are welcome; free for Womonspace members. Group campsite near Edmonton; for details and to RSVP, leave a message at 482-1794.

Sunday, August 22 – 2 p.m.
Liatris Society Garden Tour and Potluck
Join us at one garden and then car pool to other gardens in Edmonton. End at the first house with a potluck supper. Contact William, 474-7328, for the address of the first garden.

August 27-29
The Goddess Within
Weekend workshop with global ceremonialist Deb-RA at Orlando Books, 10123 Whyte Ave. $235; deposit $35 by August 15. Phone 780-513-6698 or email prairiepriestess@hotmail.com.

Saturday, August 28 – 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Diversity, Fellowship and Worship
Forum sponsored by Freedom Metropolitan Community Church at GLCCE, 206-10612 124 Street. Call Chris, 488-2085 or Judy, 454-3925 for information and registration.

Saturday, August 28 – 10 a.m.
Build an Alpine Rock Garden
Be prepared to get dirty; this is a hands-on workshop. Attendance is limited to first 8 people confirming attendance. Call Liatris Society: 474-7328.

Sunday, August 29 – noon
Build an Alpine Trough
Liatris Society workshop; create a container that can be used to overwinter alpine perennials. Preregister by Aug. 15; William, 474-7328. (There will be a cost for materials.)

Monday, August 30 – 7:30 p.m.
Womonspace Board Meeting
All members are welcome. GLCCE, suite 103, 10612 124 St.

September 3-6
Great Alberta Campout
6th annual event has moved to Lions Campground, southeast of Wetaskiwin. Power sites, trout pond, mini golf and more. Fee $45 (before August 15) includes: three days camping, wiener

roast Friday, pancake breakfast Monday, two evening dances, afternoon games and activities. Space is limited to 500. Call Lori (403) 309-7733 or (403) 340-2198 evenings and weekends.

Saturday, September 11
The Curtain Rises; The Wizard of Oz
Fundraising event for the Gay and Lesbian Community Centre of Edmonton. Dress semi-formal or movie costume. Stage entertainment, dancing and silent auction at the Citadel Theatre. Extensive hors doeuvre buffet courtesy of Edmonton restauranteurs and caterers. Call 488-3234 for tickets or for information on sponsoring or volunteering.

Sunday, September 12 – noon
Womonspace Newsletter Meeting
Bagel Tree Cafe, 10345 Whyte Ave. Drop in and chat with the newsletter dykes. Deadline for submissions for the October issue on the topic: Big Lesbians.

Saturday, September 18 – 8 p.m.
Womonspace Homemade Wine and Beer Festival
Women, share your best brews and vintages and talk to other enthusiasts about triumphs and disasters. This event will directly precede the dance that will be held in the same space, Westmount Hall. For more information, leave a message; 482-1794.

Saturday, September 18 – 9 p.m.
Womonspace Dance
Non-smoking event for women only at Westmount Hall, 10970 – 127 St. $8 for non-members, $5 for members with cards. Volunteering is a great way to meet women: call 482-1794.

Sunday, September 19 – 5 p.m.
Liatris Society Perennial Exchange & Potluck Supper
Divide large perennials, collect seeds and share the bountiful harvest of your vegetable garden. All plants and seeds will go to good homes. Call Charles, 436-8774.

Saturday, September 25
Hildegard of Bingen: A Day in the Life
Experience Hildegard's music, her writings, her life in a medieval monastery. Call 487-7310 or visit www.incentre.net/spiritlinks.

Sunday, September 26 – 12:15 p.m.
AIDS/HIV Walk Edmonton
Free food, entertainment and foot massages at Kinsmen Park. Lots of prizes! Call 488-5742 for a walker kit, or 482-1794 to join the Womonspace team.

September 29 to November 17
Coming Out Group for Lesbian and Bisexual Women
8 week program at the Gay and Lesbian Community Centre of Edmonton, suite 103, 10612 124 St. Wednesdays, 7:30-9:30 p.m. Call 488-3234 to preregister.

Hangouts for Lesbians

The Bagel Tree at 10345 Whyte Ave.

Buddy's upstairs pub; 10112 – 124 St. Karaoke Wednesday, country dancing Saturday.

Jazzberrys Too Café at 10116 – 124 St.

The Roost private club at 10345 – 104 St.

Secrets Bar & Grill at 10249 – 107 St.

What's Happening?

Adamant Eve radio show for and by womyn on CJSR 88.5 FM from 5:30-6 p.m. on Wednesdays.

Bisexual Support Group for men and women meets second Tuesday of every month at GLCCE. Call 913-3076.

Classics is a social group for lesbians over 40. Meetings on the first Sunday of the month at 2 p.m. Call Donna at 456-1008.

Edmonton Rainbow Business Association holds a monthly lunch meeting on the second Friday of the month, 11:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. at Jazzberrys, 10115 – 124 St. Call 910-3050. Monthly general meeting on the second Tuesday of the month, 7:30 p.m. at HIV Edmonton, Suite 600, 10242 – 105 Street. Call Liz, 415-5434. Membership $25.

GLCCE (Gay and Lesbian Community Centre) is located in suite 103, 10612 – 124 St. Office hours are 9 a.m. to noon Monday to Friday and 7-10 p.m. for drop-in, peer support counselling and library services. Films on Wednesdays. Call 488-3234. Peer support is also available through e-mail: glcce@freenet.edmonton.ab.ca www.freenet.edmonton.ab.ca/glcce

Free-to-be Volleyball Association competitive volleyball on Sundays. Recreational ball on Tuesdays. Beach volleyball on Sundays. For competitive volleyball call 420-6698. For recreational and beach call 474-6785.

Gaywire lesbian, gay and bisexual radio show, FM 88.5, Thursdays from 6-7 p.m.

The Liatris Society is gardening club for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgendered and straight people. Events are open to all; no membership dues. Call William, 474-7328 or email: liatrissociety@hotmail.com. Website: www.freenet.edmonton.ab.ca/glcce/liatris.htm

Making Waves Swim Club for lesbians, gays, bisexuals and their friends. Practices Thursdays, 8:30-9:30 p.m. and Sundays, 8-9:30 p.m. Call Mike at 439-7477.

Northern Chaps is Edmonton's leather-fetish club for gay, lesbian and straight men and women. Meets at Boots & Saddle the 1st & 3rd Friday of every month, 10-12 p.m. Call 1-877-882-2011 Ext. 2011.

Northern Titans Gay and Lesbian Bowling Association meets for 10 pin every Saturday at 5:15 p.m. at Pins and Cues. $12. A group supper outing after bowling is also organized each week. Call Garry, 426-6311.

Outback Trailblazers, formerly River Valley Cyclists. 1-877-882-2011 Ext. 2032; Violet at 462-0151.

PFLAG/T Edmonton offers support and education for parents, families and friends of lesbians/gays/bisexuals/transgenders. Meets the third Tuesday of each month, 7:30 p.m. at GLCCE. Call Lynne at 462-5958.

Sonic Sisters, an hour of music by women, hosted by Cori Brewster on CJSR 88.5. Tuesdays from 7-8 p.m.

Youth Understanding Youth is a fellowship of gays, lesbians, bisexuals and transgenders, aged 25 and under. Saturdays from 8-10 p.m. at GLCCE. All youth welcome. 488-3234.

Edmonton Churches

Affirm United meets the last Saturday of each month at 7:30 p.m. at McDougall United Church, 10086 Macdonald Drive, in the Norwood Room for worship, fellowship and discussion. All are welcome; you don't have to be a registered member of Affirm United to attend. Call Phyllis at 434-4808.

Freedom Metropolitan Community Church weekly worship, McDougall United Church, 10086 MacDonald Drive (riverside entrance), Sundays at 1 p.m. – with children's church school available – and at 7:15 p.m. MCC-E Youth Group meets on Tuesdays at 7 p.m. Call 429-2321. E-mail: revbev@compusmart.ab.ca

Lambda Christian Community – a nondenominational Christian church for all people who seek to know God and celebrate Jesus Christ. Worship 7p.m. Sundays. Please call 474-0753 for the temporary location during the rebuilding of our church.

Lutherans Concerned – Edmonton chapter Monthly worship and friendship meeting. For more information call 1-877-822-2011 ext. 2013 or Mette, 461-5571.

Southminster-Steinhauer United Church, an affirming congregation that welcomes people of all sexual orientations. Worship & church school on Sundays, 10 a.m., at Ermineskin Community League, 10709 – 32A Ave. Call the church office at 435-2028, Debbie at 987-4974 or Read at 437-9732.

Unitarian Church of Edmonton welcomes lesbians and gays. Services of union available. Sunday services at 9:30 and 11:15 a.m, 12530 – 110 Ave. Call 454-8073.

Get up, get out and join us!

Do you enjoy cycling, camping, canoeing and other outdoor activities or do you enjoy plays and concerts? If you want to meet interesting people, join Outback Trailblazers. For more information, please call Peter, 434-4712 or Violet, 462-0151.

Karen and Roz will celebrate their commitment in a ceremony to be held on Saturday, August 28. Best wishes from Womonspace.

Mountain Berry Inn Bed & Breakfast
on 40 acres of paradise near Salmon Arm, BC. (250)835-8891.
E-mail mberry@jetstream.net

Peaceful, inexpensive getaways for couples and small groups. Complete privacy on 160 acres lakefront. Hot tub. 878-3301 local call.

just this whisper

by Charity Laboucan

lying above you in the quiet darkness
your soft lips
gentle kiss brushing skin

I ask if you will still love my kisses
just as much ten years from now
after you whisper you love my kisses
in a tone that makes me believe you

(even though I've never believed anyone–
as much as I've tried to believe I did)

you tell me you will love them
even more then

the world spins around me
I feel I could fall into the sky

our small warm circle becomes
so much larger
as I feel a glimpse of what could be
and in the same instance
understand all the ways it could
be taken away

I can only believe in now
or my fear takes hold
of losing this perfection

fear like the fear when I was
eleven years old
under the wild wide expanse of stars
the billions of stars I could never count

forever eternity
the vastness of existence
I could never comprehend
scared me

the endless points of bright stars
don't scare me now years later

they bring prayer to my soul
of beauty
of something so much larger than me

and I can only feel amazement
that I am part of
this beauty of existence
I am still learning belief

now my life is so much more
than I ever could have wished it to be
had I written it myself

I don't want to breathe
and blow it off balance

I don't want to miss a heartbeat

I don't want to move too suddenly
and send a ripple across
the surface of this

I was once afraid of all the
stars in the sky
feeling I would fall into them
and be lost

I am afraid now of believing
that I could
ever be blessed with more
than this moment
I've been given purity and
I don't want to
dishonour it by assuming
I can live it forever

just today then
just this whisper
just this kiss

just one star at a time

A last look at Pride

Pride Award Winners: Julie Lloyd (Maureen Irvin Award), Dennis Cauby (Michael Phair Award) and Dr. Deborah Shogan (Sheryl McInnes Award)

Leonie and Debbie

Michael Phair, Tom Hayes and Mike McNeil

Cora and Deanna carry our banner

Photos by Laurie

Sing it out!!!

By Marie Byggin

Two years ago I thought I might check out the lesbian, gay and bisexual chorus here in Edmonton. I had heard Edmonton Vocal Minority perform a few times and had been very impressed. I had been thinking of joining for a few years but I always missed the window of opportunity in September.

I now have been singing with the chorus for several years and I can think of nothing that has added more to my life. Reading music is an asset in the group but the membership and the leadership are eager to teach and help.

In my 20 years as a gay female in Edmonton, I have never felt so community-minded and proud to be who I am. It is impossible to describe the extreme sense of pride and inclusion I felt when we were joined by gay choral groups from all over Canada and performed at City Hall during the GALA Choruses Festival in May, 1998. Heather Bishop and David Sereda directed us, as did other local conductors. As the sun streamed down and our voices joined in a harmonic magic that could not be matched, I never had felt so proud to be who I am.

The choir accepts new members before each concert semester. This year we will be accepting members on September 12, 19 and 26, and then in February. We rehearse in room 123 at the Fine Arts Building at the University of Alberta on Sundays from 2-5 p.m.. Contact Karen at 431-2128 or Marie at byggdin@telusplanet.net. Come join us, young or old.

Membership fees are more than reasonable. What I have received from the choir far excedes what I have given. EVM is like a light that illuminates the path to sexual freedom. If you believe in the light, join us to help brighten its beams.

Marie Byggin is Membership Manager of the Edmonton Vocal Minority.

Advertise in Womonspace!

Call 482-1794

New Rates for 1999:
Quarter page: $25
Half page: $50
Full page: $100

Classified ads are free for members.

Read back issues of *womonspace* on our award-winning website:

http://www.gaycanada.com/womonspace/

JULIE C. LLOYD
Barrister & Solicitor

1506, 10117 Jasper Avenue
Edmonton, Alberta T5J 1W8
Telephone 497-7755

10249 – 107 street
edmonton alberta
990-1818

dancing 'til dawn Fridays,
Saturdays and **now Sundays**

secrets

bar and grill

ASTROLOGICAL CONSULTANT

WRAY DANSEREAU

BIRTH CHART INTERPRETATIONS

FORECASTING

RELATIONSHIP AND CAREER FOCUS

(780)430-0645

Celebration & Empowerment of Ox's Sexuality, VIBES, DILLS, LUBES, LATEX & more...

Providing an Environment, Services and Products for the

WOMYNSWARE

896 Commercial Dr.
(at Venables)
Vancouver, B.C.
Canada V5L 3Y5

Tel: (604) 254-2543
Fax: (604) 254-5472

Mail Order
1-888-WYM-WARE

www.womynsware.com

Liz Massiah

M.S.W., R.S.W.

Clinical Social Worker

Healing work with lesbians
by a lesbian.

Sliding scale.

#203, 10129 – 124 Street,
Edmonton, Alberta
Phone (780) 415-5434

"Through uncertainty to new possibilities."

ORLANDO BOOKS

Edmonton's lesbian-owned,
feminist bookstore
with a fine selection
of titles for women.

10123 Whyte Ave. T6E 1Z5
432-7633

SEPTEMBER 26
KINSMEN PARK

CALL **488-5742** TO REGISTER

BENEFITTING: ■ HIV Edmonton ■ Edmonton Persons Living with HIV Society: Living Positive ■ Interfaith Association on AIDS ■ Feather of Hope Aboriginal AIDS Prevention Society

AIDS•HIV Walk
Edmonton 1999

WIN WITH THE WALK! • ENTER A TEAM!
Collect Pledges To Receive Gifts Generously Donated By Our Prize Sponsors

AIDS/HIV WALK EDMONTON 1999 wishes to acknowledge and thank the following sponsors to date who have graciously and generously donated cash or goods to assist us with this years walk:

■ THE ROOST ■ POWER 92 ■ KINSMEN SPORTS CENTRE ■ MR PIN MAN ■ 630 CHED ■ GRAPHICS 2000 ■ PARLEE MCLAWS ■ PANAGOPOLOUS PIZZA ■ DEBAJIS ■ SAFEWAY CANADA ■ THE EDMONTON SUN ■ ROYAL BANK ■ STARBUCKS COFFEE COMPANY ■ ITV ■ NISKU PRINTERS ■ ABBOTT LABORATORIES ■ CHEESECAKE CAFE ■ HMV ■ TIMES.10 ■ WITTEN BINDER ■ THE RUNNING ROOM

The Goddess Within

A Journey-Shop® with Deb-RA

August 27, 28, 29 Friday 7-10; Saturday 10-4; Sunday 10-1
at Orlando Books, 10123 Whyte Avenue, Edmonton

Sacred site Goddess image presentation and discussion, sharing of mystery teachings from Ephessus (Temple of Diana) and Temple of Aphrodite as relevant today. Experiential activities including journalling, myth and story work, ritual, sacred craft, drum and song.

Investment: $235 (Non-refundable deposit of $35 by August 15)

Registrations available at Orlando Books, or phone: Deb-RA Sawers, (780) 513-6698
Email: prairiepriestess@hotmail.com Address: 10138 – 93 Ave. Grande Prairie AB T8V 0K2

Give yourself this gift!

If you are a woman with a disability and not eligible for EI Benefits this program may be for you!

A free part-time 16-week career development program using Prior Learning Assessment and Recognition (PLAR) is beginning soon in Edmonton! Training allowances, accessible transportation, equipment and assistive devices, alternate media formats, sign language or simultaneous language interpretations are available for all participants. For more information contact Margot at DisAbled Women's Network (DAWN) Canada, at (780) 440-5144, fax (780) 450-0134, or by e-mail mdiehl@canada.com. DAWN Canada is a national organization controlled by and comprised of women with self-identified disabilities. We are a feminist organization and an Associate Member of Womonspace, the National Action Committee on the Status of Women (NAC) and the Council of Canadians with Disabilities.

w o m o n s p a c e

Dance

Saturday, September 18, 1999

Westmount Hall, 10970 – 127 St.
9 p.m. – 1 a.m.

FOR WOMEN ONLY
NON-SMOKING EVENT

Womonspace Membership Form

(Confidentiality Assured)

Name(s) _____

Address _____

City _____ Postal Code _____

Phone _____ E-mail _____

12 month membership fee:
$15/single or $25/couple (with one newsletter)
$15/associate (Friends of Womonspace; newsletter only)

Cheque or money order payable to: Womonspace, Box 128 Main P.O., Edmonton, Alberta T5J 3K4 Phone: (780) 482-1794 *(low income available)*

☐ New Member ☐ Renewal ☐ Associate
☐ I would like to be a volunteer
☐ Please mail my newsletter to my home
☐ I will pick up the newsletter at dances and events

Total Enclosed:

$ _____